

01-19-06

Atty. Docket No. 60,152-1012

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : John J. Vrana, et al.
Appl. No. : 10/670,622
Filed : September 25, 2003
Title : LOCATOR STUD, PANEL ASSEMBLY
AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLY
Examiner : Douglas Mazzuca, Jr.
Grp./A.U. : 3726
Docket No. : 60,152-1012

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Fee Amendment
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Requirement for Election mailed December 13, 2005, the Applicant hereby provisionally elects the claims of Group I, namely claims 1 to 13, drawn to a method of attaching a locator stud on a panel. The Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement on the basis that the claimed method of attaching a locator stud on a panel of Group I results in the locator stud and panel assembly of Group II and, therefore, the inventions are not materially different as alleged in the Restriction Requirement.

The Election/Restriction Requirement further requires the Applicant to elect one of four species disclosed in this application and the Applicant provisionally elects Species A which is disclosed in Figures 1 to 6. Further in response to the Species Restriction Requirement, claims 1, 2 and 11 of Group I are generic to all species and claims 14 and 16 of Group II are generic to all species. Claims 5, 6 and 7 of Group I are generic to Species A and B. In Group II, claim 13 is generic to Species A and D, claims 17, 18 and 21 are generic to Species A and B and claim 22 is specifically directed to Species A.

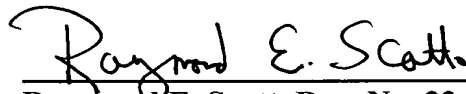
The Applicant respectfully traverses the Species Restriction Requirement on the basis that the generic claims are patentable and further dependent claims 5, 6 and 7 of Group I are generic to *both* Species A and B and thus should be grouped together. Further, claim 3 of Group I is generic to Species B and C, claim 8 is generic to Species B, C and D, and claim 12 is generic to Species B and C. Thus, should claims 5, 6 or 7 be found to be patentable, Species B and claims 3, 4, 8 and 12 must also be examined.

The Applicant respectfully submits that although the restriction requirements are traversed as set forth above, this response is fully responsive to the Election/Restriction Requirement.

Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$120.00 as required for the late filing of this Response. If there are any additional fees due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account for those additional fees or credit the account for any overpayments regarding this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond E. Scott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Raymond E. Scott, Reg. No. 22,981
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101
39400 Woodward Ave.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151
(248) 723-0306

January 18, 2006

Date

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Response to Restriction/Election Requirement, One-Month Extension Request** and fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. **EV564946489US** and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **January 18, 2006**.



Tracy L. Smith

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